

Technical Review Cover Sheet

Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2010 **CFDA/Subprogram** 84.351D **Schedule No** 1 **Tier No.** 1

Panel Name Panel - 11

Applicant Name Urban Arts Partnership **PR/Award No** U351D100080

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Need for Project	15	15
Significance	10	10
Project Design	25	25
Project Personnel	10	10
Management Plan	20	16
Project Evaluation	20	20
<hr/>		
TOTAL	100	96

Technical Review Form

Applicant Name Urban Arts Partnership **PR/Award No** U351D100080

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.**
- 1. (b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.**

STRENGTHS The StoryStudio project is aimed at building the knowledge of middle school students in visual and theater arts. The focus group is particularly English Language Learners.(ELL) Simultaneously, the students will develop their ability to read, write and listen and speak the English language. (p. 2) Beginning in 2007, the Urban Arts Partnership(UAP) implemented the StoryStudio project for the ELL students. UAP has served the Title I New York City(NYC) schools since 1992 and has focused on difficult-to-reach students. The grant specifies and defines the target group of students on page 2. Student data for the is provided on page 4. Five middle schools will receive services in the first two years. An additional group of ten middle and elementary schools will be served in years three and four. (p. 3) Four gaps have been identified and described on pages 4-7. \\\ WEAKNESSES No weaknesses noted.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

- 2. Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**

(1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.

STRENGTHS This project will develop a StoryStudio package for instructors of ELL students in a variety of settings. (p. 8) A Summer Immersion Training Experience(SITE) is an opportunity for teachers and ELL students to learn together. UAP has developed the assessment tool Research in Action Dialogue(RAD). This tool is used three times a year to examine student artwork and inform instruction for teachers. (p. 8) The RAD tool has been recognized by the New York State Council of the Arts as promising practice. UAP currently offers an interactive website Google Analytics. StoryStudio will develop a similar site that will be made available to the public. (p. 9) The evaluation results of this project will be presented at conferences and will be published. The evaluator is a close colleague of the Artistic Director of Chicago Arts Partnershio in Education(CAPE). The sharing of the evaluation results of both projects can improve both programs. \\\\ WEAKNESSES No weaknesses noted.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- 3.
- (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.**
 - (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.**
 - (3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will**

extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

STRENGTHS The three goals of the project are 1) student achievement 2) professional development and 3) model development and dissemination. (p. 7) Urban Arts Partnership (UAP) piloted a process of art instruction for ELL students that included opportunities for storyboarding and animated films.(p.11) The second component includes the Summer Immersion Institute is followed-up by teachers co-teaching and being coaching by artists. (p.14) Finally action research will be conducted using the Research in Action Dialogue (RAD) tool an embedded assessment tool developed by UAP. (p. 15) The RAD is used three times during the year. This tool examines student artwork to determine the need for differentiation. (p. 8)
\\ WEAKNESSES No weaknesses noted.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

- Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:**(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for
4. **employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
- (2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.**

STRENGTHS The Executive Director of the StoryStudio project is also the Executive Director of UAP. The evaluator, Robert Horowitz, is the Associate Director of the Center for Arts Education Research at Columbia University. (p. 23) Dr. Horowitz has experience with UAP and the New York City Public Schools. (NYCPS) The Creative Director of the Chicago Arts Project in Education (CAPE), located in, will be a curriculum advisor and dissemination partner. (p. 23) All of the other staff for the project are from UAP. The ethnic background of the personnel is provided. (p. 26) StoryStudio was developed as part of a Promising Practice grant in 2007. The experience of the UAP staff on the pilot project will be an advantage in the implementation of this new project. (p. 12) \\\ WEAKNESSES No weaknesses noted.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
- 5. (2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.**
- (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

STRENGTHS A flow chart of the various personnel and the percent of their time that will be dedicated to the project is provided. (p. 26) The responsibilities of the staff are explained on pages 27-31. The variables and

analyses to be conducted are provided. (p. 35-36) A thorough discussion of the comparison/control groups is provided and takes into account the variations in the schools and classrooms over the four year period.

\\ WEAKNESSES The plan is not clear. The clearest part of the project is the table provided in the Evaluation section. (p. 31)

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 16

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

6. (1) **The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- (2) **The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

STRENGTHS A flow chart of the various personnel and the percent of their time that will be dedicated to the project is provided. (p. 26) The responsibilities of the staff are explained on pages 27-31. The variables and analyses to be conducted are provided. A thorough discussion of the comparison/control groups is provided and takes into account the variations in the schools and classrooms over the four year period. The evaluator has previously developed protocols, surveys and rating scales that have been piloted and revised. (p. 37) A table is provided on pages 40-45 that includes activities short term outcomes and long term impact. Clear measurable objectives are provided in the table. Monthly meetings with Dr. Horowitz. \\ WEAKNESSES No weaknesses noted.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

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Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2010 **CFDA/Subprogram** 84.351D **Schedule No** 1 **Tier No.** 1

Panel Name Panel - 11

Applicant Name Urban Arts Partnership **PR/Award No** U351D100080

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Need for Project	15	15
Significance	10	10
Project Design	25	25
Project Personnel	10	10
Management Plan	20	18
Project Evaluation	20	20
TOTAL		98

Technical Review Form

Applicant Name Urban Arts Partnership **PR/Award No** U351D100080

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.**
- (b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.**

Strengths:

The proposal narrative effectively combined anecdotal narrative with data from research & reports, giving the application a "big picture" perspective along with information about the potential for impact on individual students.

The proposal effectively addresses points academic failure: It defined how & where ELL students are at-risk in literacy, and cited research pg 3, provided a student literacy chart pg.4, and described growth of Ell students in school pg 3 &4

The proposal narrative effectively defined gaps: It used NYC DOE reports describing decline in the arts in schools overall pg. 4, described that ELL students are prioritized for ELA classes over arts lasses pg 5, and explained that the goals are to address language FLUENCY, not just proficiency pg 5.

The proposal describes a holistic, hands on approach to ELL pg 5

The proposal supports creative teaching & collaboration, and backs-up the need for this with report from The Arts & Business Council of NY pg 6

The program also has a goal of building resilience: it acknowledge the school's role as an entire family's entry point in the immigration experience pg 6

Weaknesses: none

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- 2. (1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.**

Significance: 10

Strengths: The proposal is a multi-pronged, integrated products that support and boost the dissemination of the projects results, uses and tools that include:

Published curriculum - pg.8

DVD-ROM for students and teachers pg 8

A festival featuring the students, artists & teachers, topics of discussion pg 8

Teacher training summer institute, experiential learning opportunity for teachers

Embedded RAD assessment already recognized as a best practice pg 8

The website plan is multi-pronged, with well defined use of web tools pg 9, that piggy-backs on an already well established website pg 9

The dissemination plan will be further supported by an evaluation report that will be published & presented in professional, academic, and research education forums - pg 10

weaknesses: none

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.**
- 3. (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.**
- (3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.**

Strengths:

The proposal uses and is based on up to date knowledge and practice:

Program combines arts best practices, language acquisition hypothesis and literacy improvement theories pg 12

employs Visual thinking strategies pg 13

It follows professional development best practices pg 13

It give example of what the RAD assessment tool will look like pg 15

It is part of a city wide teacher improvement efforts & active partnerships & demonstrates support from key school officials pg 16

It fully integrates the school district's recommendation throughout from school selection, expansion and professional development practices.

weaknesses: none

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

- Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**
- 4. (2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.**

Strengths:

All key personnel are highly qualified. Staff includes national leaders in the field of arts education. Diversity is clarified.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses.

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

- Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:**
- 5. (1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
- (2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.**

(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

Strengths:

The management structure is clear, with effective chain of leadership and responsibility - pg 26

The timeline is effective, thoughtful, clear with personnel responsibilities clearly defined - pg 31-32 feedback loop includes face to face opportunity as well as assessment tools (RAD) - pg 33

Weaknesses:

Festival planning, and other production of dissemination materials, is unclear in the timeline - pg 31-33

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 18

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**

Strengths

Rationale for design was clear, transparent , realistic and student & school centered pg 34

The variables are teacher focused, as well as school and student centered.

Goals, benchmarks & objectives are realistic, pg 34 -35

The methods are rigorous and thorough pg 35-36

The instrumentation employs established, rigorous tools that include both qualitative methods and qualitative methods. The evaluation is inclusive of both student learning and project implementation pg 37

Weaknesses: None

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

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Panel Details

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Panel Name Panel - 11

Applicant Name Urban Arts Partnership **PR/Award No** U351D100080

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Need for Project	15	15
Significance	10	10
Project Design	25	25
Project Personnel	10	10
Management Plan	20	20
Project Evaluation	20	20
TOTAL	100	100

Applicant Name Urban Arts Partnership **PR/Award No** U351D100080

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

1.

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (a) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services or otherwise address the needs of students at risk of educational failure.**
- (b) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project, including the nature and magnitude of those gaps or weaknesses.**

Strengths:

- There is a steadily growing need that has been clearly identified. (Page 3)
- The proposed solution is will address the aforementioned need.(Page 3)
- The gaps that need to be addressed have been clearly stated (Page 4)
- There is an overwhelming lack of equitable access to the arts. (Page 5)
- There is a correlation between the program and academic achievement. (Page 5)
- The program provides opportunities for professional development through collaboration. (Page 6)
- The project addresses identified gaps, weaknesses and opportunities through measurable goals. (Page 7)

No Weaknesses

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Significance

2.

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

(1) The likely utility of the products (such as information, materials, processes, or techniques) that will result from the proposed project, including the potential for their being used effectively in a variety of other settings.

Strengths:

- Products to be developed include; a published curriculum and DVD-rom supplement detailing year-long lesson plans and an annual spring StoryGiants festival hosted by UAP. (Page 8)
- It fulfills standards while incorporating best practices in both arts and literacy instruction. (Page 8)
- Teacher training is structured and research based. (Page 8)
- This resource is open to the online public and features a forum. (Page 9)
- Web content will be monitored. (Page 9)
- Information will be shared with CAPE and dissemination in a variety of far-reaching venues. (Pages 9-10)
- Outcomes and products will be shared with the goal being to affect policy change. (Page 10)

No Weaknesses

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

3.

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice.**
- (2) The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students.**
- (3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.**

Strengths:

- The program is interdisciplinary and incorporates standards-based instruction integrated into a curriculum for ELL students. (Page 11)
- The program uses a he six step sequential method. (Page 11)
- The curriculum design incorporates the five critical areas necessary for fulfilling literacy improvement (Page 12)
- The project design is supported by current research in the field (Page 12-13)
- Processes and findings will be shared through an extensive network. (Page 16)
- Skills that students will develop will be clearly demonstrated in a variety of ways (Page 19)
- Model teachers will develop and support dissemination strategies. (Page 21)
- The project is well designed to build capacity and yield results well beyond the years of funding via a multi-faceted network using a variety of mediums. (Page 21-22)
- The program will continue to grow through partnerships with other key arts and education organizations. (Page 22)

No Weaknesses

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

4.

Your comments and scores should address the following criterion:(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(2) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factor: The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

Strengths:

- Personnel is qualified and diverse.
- In consideration of these definitions the organization acknowledges that of the above personnel, 44% are of color, 20% are of non-U.S. origin, 56% are female, 44% are male, and age ranges from 25 to 63.

No Weaknesses

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

5.

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
- (2) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and Principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.**
- (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

Strengths:

The roles and responsibilities of each person involved is clearly defined and well allocated. (Page 27-28)

-There are a set of requirements to which each participating school has agreed in order to ensure successful implementation. (Page 29-30)

- Evaluation, Reporting and Dissemination will include yearly interim reports and an overall final report. (Page 30)

-In addition to dissemination strategies proposed the evaluation results and methods will be presented at national conferences. (Page 30-31)

-The milestone for the project are clearly stated and there is adequate time for the objectives and goals to be reached by the team. (Page 31)

- Continuous improvement and feedback in the operation of the project is ensured through the plan outlined. (Page 33)

No Weaknesses

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

6.

Your comments and scores should address the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project.**

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

Strengths:

- The evaluation will employ a quasi-experimental design, with an additional, systematic qualitative component. (Page 34)
- Performance data will be obtained at the outset of the project for participating students. (Page 34)
- There will be also comparison group of equivalent non-treatment sample of students. The same individual students will be tracked over the course of the project. (Page 34-35:)
- Variables within three broad groups will be measured. (Page 35)
- Several analyses will investigate causal relationships among implementation, professional development, and student variables. (Page 35-36)
- Three sets of comparison/control groups will be used for the quasi-experimental analysis. (Page 36)
- Instrumentation will measure progress towards each goal and objective.(Page 37)
- Data collection at participating schools will be continuous throughout the project. (Page 38)

No Weaknesses

Question Status:Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

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